

IN MEMORIAM

MAJOR WILLIAM H. LAMBERT



THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP

NEW YORK, 1912











**MAJOR WILLIAM H. LAMBERT**

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP

BORN, MAY 9, 1842—DIED, JUNE 1, 1912

NO. 4 OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP  
OF NEW YORK

IN MEMORIAM  
WILLIAM HARRISON LAMBERT

MAY, 1842—JUNE, 1912

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE  
LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP

"One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward;  
Never doubted clouds would break;  
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph;  
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,  
Sleep to wake."



EDITED BY THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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## WILLIAM HARRISON LAMBERT

BY JAMES GRANT WILSON

In the autumn of 1907 some two score admirers of Abraham Lincoln met together at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, and organized a society to be known as THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP. The membership consisted chiefly of collectors of Lincolniana, and Major William H. Lambert, of Philadelphia, was very properly and unanimously elected first president of the new association, he being the most celebrated of that numerous class now numbering more than five hundred in the United States. The Fellowship also included a number of those who had written more or less concerning the extraordinary American who is the gentlest memory of the New World.

At the first annual dinner of the Society, held at Delmonico's, New York, Major Lambert presided, as he did at all the annual banquets which followed at the same place, and always on the anniversary of the Martyr-President's birth. On another of these pleasant occasions the Fellowship presented Major Lambert with a handsome Lincoln medal designed by Roine in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the day of his birth in that *annus mirabilis*, 1809, in which year were also born Gladstone, Tennyson, Darwin, Holmes and a host of other great heirs of fame. The first vice-president of the Fellowship also presented the Major, on his own behalf, a beautiful gold-embroidered Lincoln centennial badge, a duplicate of another received by President Roosevelt from the State of Kentucky when he and the present writer delivered addresses at the

Lincoln Farm Centennial celebration of February the 12th, 1909.

For almost half a century Major Lambert had been a collector of Lincolniana, having first been inspired to take up the pleasant pursuit by receiving a gift from his father of a copy of Dr. J. G. Holland's "Life of Lincoln." During the last two decades preceding his death on Saturday morning, June 1, 1912, I occasionally had an opportunity of adding some acceptable Lincoln items to his large collection, but the greatest service of this character in his judgment was acquiring for him, at a cost of six hundred dollars, the large blood-stained lock of hair cut from the President's head when the surgeon was examining the wound made by the assassin's bullet. It was given to Doctor Taft, an army surgeon, among the first to reach the victim, and who was assisting the chief surgeon in charge. Taft's son offered the precious relic to me and I secured it for the Major, who deemed it his most precious Lincoln treasure, for locks of his hair are more difficult to obtain than those of Washington. It is preserved in a handsome substantial gold box, with an appropriate inscription.

Major Lambert presented the most unselfish attitude of any collector that I have ever known. His incomparable Lincoln and Thackeray treasures were always at the service of others, as well as his unusual knowledge of the writings and familiarity with the career of the American statesman and the English author. Here and now I wish to bear testimony to the fact that my friend never failed to clear up any point connected with Lincoln or Thackeray about which I was in doubt. When Lambert learned in 1902 that I was preparing two octavo volumes entitled "Thackeray in the United States, 1852-3, 1855-6," he at once invited me to come to Germantown and see if something could not be discovered in his collection of Titmarsh drawings that would be useful to illustrate my work. The result of that delightful visit may be seen by the following lines,

which appeared in the first volume when the book was published a year later :

DEDICATED TO  
MAJOR WILLIAM H. LAMBERT  
TO WHOSE UNRIVALLED COLLECTION OF THACKERAYANA  
THE AUTHOR IS CHIEFLY INDEBTED  
FOR THE ILLUSTRATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS WORK\*

Early in the past year several appeals reached Major Lambert, urging him to loan a portion of his Thackeray treasures to different centennial exhibitions to be given in London. In mentioning these applications, all of which were declined, he wrote: "As we cannot possibly have a Thackeray centennial dinner at Delmonico's or elsewhere in New York in July, when the city is deserted and you and I are among the mountains, what do you think of an exhibit of my Thackeray collection at the new Public Library in the autumn, when your people have returned to town? If you think favorably of the suggestion you may offer it to the authorities." The collection was proffered and promptly accepted by Doctor Billings, but before the autumn arrived I was informed that Major Lambert must withdraw his offer for the present, as a wealthy young gentleman had persuaded him to name a price for his entire collection.

Many months passed and the prospective purchaser, with his father, on their way home from Europe took passage for New York in the ill-fated Titanic and both perished in that terrible tragedy of the sea. Had young Harry Widener reached Philadelphia, he would have acquired the wonderful Thackeray collection for a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000). Two months later Major Lambert passed away painlessly and peacefully under the roof of his own beautiful home, a spacious stone mansion. (It may be added that the young

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\*Of some six score portraits and other illustrations contained in the two volumes, almost one-half the number were kindly contributed by Major Lambert from his unequalled collection.

booklover of twenty-six by his will bequeathed his collection of rare books to his *alma mater*, and that his grandfather is erecting a memorial edifice at Cambridge at the cost of a million dollars to contain his valuable gift and also the library of Harvard University, which has outgrown the present building.)

Catalogues of the Lincoln and Thackeray collections are being prepared by the Lambert executors and will soon be printed, but they have not yet announced what disposition will be made of the Major's treasures, numbering many thousands. A single item of sermons preached on the assassination of President Lincoln exceeds three hundred, each one bound separately.

Second only to his admiration for the statesman and emancipator Lincoln, and the novelist and poet Thackeray, was the high esteem in which Major Lambert held the gallant and loyal Virginian, Gen. George H. Thomas, in whom he saw many resemblances to Washington, both mental and physical. The "Rock of Chickamauga," was the subject of several addresses delivered before different military organizations, as will be seen by the Major's bibliography, which follows this paper. It will also be observed by reference to this same list on another page, that he was the author of two interesting Lincoln addresses, one on the immortal Gettysburg address, the other, and Lambert's last public utterance, entitled "The Faith of Lincoln." This latest and, perhaps, most valuable of his addresses, was delivered to a Presbyterian society, and in the Second Presbyterian Church in Germantown, of which Lambert was a member and vice-president of the board of trustees, a memorial service was held in his honor on Sunday afternoon, June 16th.

As an army comrade of the Civil War with whom for many years the writer had most agreeable associations and, sharing in Major Lambert's appreciation of Lincoln and Thackeray, he takes pleasure in contributing this brief tribute to the memory of a Christian

gentleman, notable for courage and courtesy as a patriotic soldier, a good and useful citizen and a kind-hearted and faithful friend to whom Bassanio's words applied to Antonio, the Venetian merchant, are equally applicable:

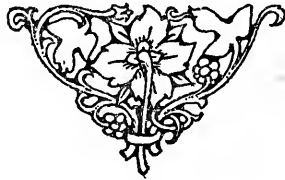
"The kindest man,  
The best condition'd and unwearied spirit  
In doing courtesies."

I never met a more lovable man than Major Lambert. At the last Lincoln Fellowship dinner, where we sat side by side, he told the story of how he became a Lincoln admirer soon after the close of the War, and in allusion to our advancing years remarked: "I do not discover that I am going downstairs yet, as Lowell did at my age." He was then sixty-nine. We also had some pleasant conversation about Thackeray and he consulted me about printing a small number of copies for private circulation of some two score unpublished letters written by the great novelist to his particular friend, Mrs. Brookfield. The Major also expressed much interest in an article for the Thackeray centennial which I proposed to prepare, and he proffered the use of a portrait he had recently discovered and acquired to accompany the paper. It was reproduced in colors and appeared as the frontispiece of the *Century Magazine* for July, 1911, and is interesting from the fact that it is the only oil painting of Thackeray made in this country. It was painted by James B. Lambdin of Philadelphia during one of the author's two lecture tours in the United States. The artist was a member of the Quaker City coterie who entertained Thackeray and the picture was for a long period in the possession of the late Joseph Harrison of Philadelphia, after whose recent decease his pictures were sold.

"Death has this also," says Lord Bacon, "that it openeth the gate to good fame." Lambert did not have to wait

"To muse with darkness and with death"

in order to enjoy good fame, for that had been his heritage ever since attaining to manhood. In all the varied relations of life, his career and conduct had been of such a character as to escape censure or criticism. The beautiful words of Thackeray in speaking of a valued friend who fell on the field of battle, may be most appropriately applied to William Harrison Lambert, that "when he went to Heaven, the angels must have turned out and presented arms."





## THE SPIRIT OF MAJOR LAMBERT'S QUEST

BY FREDERICK TREVOR HILL

Collecting is apt to be a mere fad or a pastime which combines the charm of the chase with the lure of financial gain. But sometimes it is inspired by an unselfish devotion to the subject matter. Then it becomes an art and an art of high educational value.

It was in this spirit that Major Lambert began his great collection of *Lincolniana* and his reverent touch and scholarly instinct made it what it is—a rare contribution to American history.

Major Lambert was a loyal and untiring servant of the Republic in more ways than one, but he builded better than he knew when he undertook to assemble and preserve the historical data bearing upon the life of Abraham Lincoln. This was, I venture to say, his greatest public service. That he himself regarded his collection as a public trust was apparent from his generous attitude towards all students who sought access to his shelves. He knew no delight so keen as sharing the enjoyment of his treasures with others. He had none of the petty jealousy or miserliness of the professional collector. To hoard and hide his discoveries was utterly foreign to his nature. Of course he was entirely human and made no secret of the fact that he shared the thrill of the hunter in tracking his quarry and the exultation of bagging the same. But it was not the mere love of possession that dominated him. It was the hope that his collection would aid in handing down to posterity a true impression of the first American.

Some eight years ago the writer was informed that "a Mr. Lambert," living in or near Philadelphia, had in his possession a certain document bearing upon Lincoln's career at the Bar. With no other information than this he wrote a request, addressed simply to "Mr. Lambert, Philadelphia," for permission to examine that document. Somewhat to his surprise the letter reached

its intended destination and in a few days a note was received from Major Lambert, stating that he had the document and that he would be glad to show it at a future date. With characteristic modesty the Major failed to state that he had any other documents in his possession, and the present writer was quite ignorant of that fact.

On the day appointed he journeyed to Philadelphia, intending to examine the document in question between trains and return to New York. Arriving at Major Lambert's house he found that the library table had been cleared and upon it, systematically arranged, were all of the papers in the Major's collection bearing upon Lincoln's legal career.

The visitor's astonishment can be better imagined than described, but when he found himself utterly unable to make more than a casual examination of the material spread before him and ventured to suggest a second inspection, he was met more than half way by his host, who virtually placed the entire collection at his disposal.

It was in this broad-minded, large-hearted spirit that Major Lambert administered his self-created trust. He was a patriot in the best sense of the term, a well-rounded scholar and a "Gentleman of the Old School." That his collection may not be scattered, but may be preserved as a memorial to its owner and an inspiration to other collectors, is the hope of one who was honored by his friendship.

## MAJOR LAMBERT AS A LINCOLN COLLECTOR

BY JUDD STEWART

"All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them," it seems to me, expresses Major Lambert's rule of action toward rival collectors. It certainly was his attitude toward that coterie of Lincoln collectors who knew him as President of the Lincoln Fellowship. At one of the Fellowship dinners he referred to me as his hated rival and within a week gave me—his hated rival—a rare pamphlet with his compliments.

Early in 1905 I sent the Major a copy of Doctor Snodgrass' sermon on Lincoln, and this paved the way to an acquaintance, and at last a friendly intimacy, of greater worth than many Lincoln pamphlets. For a long time our acquaintance was kept up entirely by correspondence, but after Major Lambert became a trustee of the Mutual Life he usually stopped at my office either before or after each weekly meeting of the trustees to compare notes and rarely missed, at least, calling by telephone.

Major Lambert was a born collector. On one occasion he told me that he first started to collect books about the Holy Land, and, after exhausting that line of endeavor, he bought Boyd's collection on Lincoln. Boyd's collection was one of the earliest formed and this will explain how Major Lambert had so many items that other collectors could not find. He got them early. After the fire in 1906, which damaged his Lincoln collection, particularly with respect to the relics of Lincoln and the books formerly belonging to Lincoln, the Major was undecided whether to continue collecting or not. I wrote him that he could have any items in my collection that would replace damaged or destroyed items and sent him among others a copy of "Lincoln and the Illinois

Central Railroad." This seemed to decide the matter and under date of June 28, 1906, he wrote that he would consider the Illinois Central Railroad item the foundation of the new collection as "Holland's Life of Lincoln," given him by his father just after the War, was considered the cornerstone of the first collection.

In looking over the many letters received from the Major, from November, 1905, to May, 1912, there is the most interesting view of the kindly collector. Most of the letters are about acquisitions, sending items or acknowledging those sent him, but the unfailing gentleness of the man is shown in every letter. In 1908 I began issuing a consolidated want list covering the five principal collections. Periodically I was advised of additions by each of the collectors and would then get out a new sheet showing how each collector stood. The Major remarked one day that my consolidated want list beat a Wall Street ticker for interest, and he never failed to analyze the standing of the collections. One of his summaries was as follows:

April 22, 1908.

W. H. L. wants to complete "Fish's Bibliography, 1906"  
Of these there are wanted by

Five.....	42
Four.....	45
Three.....	28
Two.....	12
W. H. L. alone.....	2

————— 129

Of the numbers wanted by W. H. L. (129)

C. W. McL. wants.....	86
J. S. wants.....	88
J. B. O. wants.....	94
D. F. wants.....	99

or conversely

McL. has 43 that L. lacks	
S. has 41 that L. lacks	
O. has 35 that L. lacks	
F. has 30 that L. lacks	

For a long time the only known copy of the Greek "Life of Lincoln," Athens, 1865, was that in Yale University Library. Through our Consul at Athens—and by reason of a liberal price—I obtained two copies; one of these I sent to the Major and he rather objected to my giving him so expensive an item, but he soon got even by sending me a copy of the "Praesidicide," which had been through the fire and had the back burned off. Every leaf had been mounted on linen and nicely bound, and the inscription "A souvenir of the fire of 1906" makes it doubly precious.

In the Lincoln home in Springfield is a copy of the first printing of Lincoln's "House Divided Against Itself" speech. When I visited Springfield and saw this I naturally tried to persuade Mrs. Edwards to let me have it, but no argument would prevail—it had been promised to Major Lambert. The dear old man used to accuse me of being a trust, an octopus, and all sorts of things, when I would tell him of some far-off friend sending me an item.

Notwithstanding the Major's kindly flattery in saying he was afraid my collection would surpass his if a definitive list was prepared, there is, I think, no question but that his collection of Lincoln books and pamphlets surpasses any other collection, not only in its completeness, but in the number of rare items. The last analysis made by the Major showed he lacked 86 of the items listed by Fish in 1906 and that a combination of his own collection with Fish, McClellan, Oakleaf and my own could be made, lacking only 26 of the Fish items.

In autograph letters Major Lambert's collection is without a rival, although he did not exercise the option on a letter signed by Lincoln as Postmaster, "A. Lincoln, P. M." The last time I saw the Major, about three weeks before his death, he asked if the option still held, and when I told him "Yes" his kindly eyes twinkled and he smilingly said: "I think you would better withdraw the offer; I may be tempted beyond

my strength some day and take it." And so he lived—a kindly, generous, gentle friend with no jealousy but with sincere pleasure in the success of his rivals. Often he would say: "Well, there is only one other person I know that I'd rather have get a rare item than yourself." To me his friendship was like a benediction. The last letter I had from him was May 10, 1912, three weeks before his death. He wrote:

May 10, 1912.

My dear Mr. Stewart:

Thanks for the copies of the Catalogue of Portraits of Lincoln and for the work you have performed. I have not been in New York since I last saw you, and as you know I have neglected, a customary fault of mine, acknowledging the copies so kindly sent. \* \* \* \* I was shocked to learn of the fire in Mr. McLellan's home of which I have seen no account save that stating the collection was saved. I hope later reports verify the statement. How anxiously he must have awaited opportunity to examine. I can sympathize with him. I hope you will be spared similar trial.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM H. LAMBERT.

## A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN

BY DANIEL FISH

One's hobby, if the beast be of an amiable breed, carries its rider by pleasant paths to many a hospitable door. The kindest service ever rendered by mine was in bringing me into relations with Major William H. Lambert. He was indeed of the salt of the earth—keen business man, patriotic citizen, painstaking scholar, self-sacrificing friend, and withal a genial follower of wholesome fads. Such a man, without fads, may well be admired; with them he is sure to be loved.

Soon after beginning to gather up the books and pamphlets pertaining to Abraham Lincoln I learned that Major Lambert owned a superb collection of them. Naturally I applied to him for advice and assistance. A long correspondence followed and innumerable kindnesses, all so unstintedly and graciously given that gratitude speedily ripened into affection. We had few opportunities for meeting, but once, for a whole precious day, a day of *more* than twenty-four hours, I was a guest in his home, with that unrivalled store of Lincoln memorabilia spread around us in delightful profusion. That visit, with two or three brief interviews elsewhere, are cherished memories, and big bundles of his explicit and helpful letters are as rifts in the cloud that has gathered between us.

It is a joy to tell of his goodness to one in the far outer circle of his friendships. Once he sent me a packet of Lincoln pamphlets, duplicates from his great collection. Among them was one of a rare edition which I had despaired of ever possessing. I knew that it had sold in the book mart for a monstrous price. Fearing that he had overlooked its money value I offered to restore it. The copy was slightly defective. He begged that I would return that copy—sending a perfect one in exchange. It is worth while being a collector, just to know how to appreciate so beautiful a courtesy.

The dear Major had more than one hobby, but only one character, that of a Christian gentleman.

## MAJOR WILLIAM H. LAMBERT

BY FREDERICK H. MESERVE

Whatever life he touched he touched with light,  
Himself illumined by a kindly soul.  
And when he answered "Here," the muster roll  
Of God's elect held him by every right.

No laggard when he heard the Nation's cry  
He followed in the greater Captain's stride,  
And when victorious swords were laid aside  
He led the way in fields of industry.

The world may seem to honor some men less  
Who hide their acts of valor from the view.  
His life itself was a reward well won;  
His noble spirit lived for truthfulness.  
And countless friends remain to praise; they knew  
The man, the words well said, the deeds well done.

## APPRECIATIONS FROM THACKERAY'S DAUGHTER

Lady Richmond Ritchie writes from London to Mrs. Lambert: "I receive with a sad pang the intelligence that my kind unknown friend was never to be known by me in this world except indeed by all the gracious words, and deeds and thoughts—to me and mine—will ever associate with his name. It has ever been a happiness to me to feel that my father's memory was still alive in him, as while I live Major Lambert's will be alive for me and for my husband and children after me."

To General Wilson Lady Ritchie wrote: "When I heard of kind Major Lambert's death, I felt as if I had lost a dear friend, although I had never seen him."



## A LETTER FROM MR. HORACE WHITE

SOUTHPORT, CONN., Aug. 24, 1912.

My dear Sir:

Absence from home prevented me from receiving early notice of the death of our lamented friend and coadjutor, Major William H. Lambert, President of the Lincoln Fellowship Club.

Permit me to express through you to the members of the club, to the family of the deceased and to all of his friends and compatriots my deep, fervent sympathy in the loss we have all sustained.

My acquaintance with Major Lambert was due to the knowledge which I had acquired from other persons of his remarkable collection of books, manuscripts and material of all kinds relating to Abraham Lincoln. I took an early opportunity to ask his permission to inspect these treasures. He promptly invited me to visit him at his house in Germantown, Pa., where he not only gave me access to everything he possessed in the way of Lincolniana, but gave me his own time for half a day in describing and explaining them. This politeness he extended to me a second time and on both occasions I was brought into the most pleasant relations with his wife and daughter, whose kindness is among the most pleasing recollections of my life.

I leave to others the duty of referring to Major Lambert's services as a patriot, soldier in the army of the Union during the Civil War, and to his high standing in the walks of civil life after the war was ended. He was a noble, high-minded soldier and citizen whose loss we mourn.

I remain very sincerely your friend and servant,

HORACE WHITE.

*Gen. James Grant Wilson,  
Minnewaska Mountain House,  
New York.*

## MAJOR W. H. LAMBERT, WAR VETERAN DEAD

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA LEDGER, JUNE 2, 1912

Major William H. Lambert, war veteran, former city official and a widely known collector of manuscripts, the value of which is untold, died at his home, 330 West Johnson Street, Germantown, yesterday. He was 70 years old.

For years he held an unique position among learned men in this city. He had a wide acquaintance not only among those in art and literary circles, but numbered in his circle of friends statesmen, scientists and others in public life.

Major Lambert was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1842. He was educated in the public schools of this city and was graduated from the Philadelphia High School in 1859 as the valedictorian of his class.

He took up the study of law, but when the Civil War broke out he left his desk and his books, and went to the front. He enlisted in the Fifteenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served in the Pennsylvania and Maryland campaigns that involved the battles in Lee's invasion. He participated in the battles of Antietam and those occurring around that period of the war, and afterwards accompanied his regiment to Louisville, Kentucky.

On November 24, 1862, he was appointed first lieutenant, and on January 16, 1864, was commissioned captain of his company, each promotion being made because of bravery in battle and the meritorious performance of duty in danger. In May of the same year further honors came to him because of his record, for he was appointed aide-de-camp on the staff of General John W. Geary. On March 13, 1865, he was brevetted major, the order for his promotion reading: "For gallant and meritorious conduct during the war."

Upon his return from the war Major Lambert took an active interest in public affairs and was a frequent contributor to the current literature of the day on leading events. He was an ardent admirer of Lincoln, whom he had personally known, and became an eager collector of letters and other material associated with the great Emancipator. No man in the country obtained a closer view of the life, deeds and thoughts of the war President.

Major Lambert also specialized as a collector of Thackerayana, and this gave him a reputation on two continents, as he possessed a collection of Thackeray manuscripts and other material admitted to be unsurpassed, gathered after much travel and infinite search.

His Lincoln collection was virtually complete, for it is believed to contain every life of the Emancipator published, and in addition contains an extensive collection of portraits of the Civil War President. The gem of the collection, however, is the book in which Lincoln as a young lawyer kept an account of his fees. This was one of the Lincoln items which did not fall victim to the flames which made such havoc in Major Lambert's library in the summer of 1906.

The fire destroyed the desk and the chair that formerly were in Lincoln's office in Springfield, and many of the books that had been owned by Lincoln, but enough remained to make the collection still the finest of its kind in existence.

In monetary value, however, it is believed that the Thackeray collection was the greater, and while no estimate of it can very well be made, it is generally believed that it would bring a great deal in excess of \$250,000, if it came into the market. Not only does this collection contain every publication that Thackeray was connected with, including the rare files of the newspaper which the novelist for a time published, but it also contains many manuscripts of the great novelist. The fame of the Thackeray collection is known throughout the English reading world, and all the later writers on

Thackeray and his works have been compelled to resort to the Lambert collection for much valuable material.

The Thackeray letters are innumerable and many of them unpublished; there are fragments of several of the longer novels, and complete manuscripts of several of the shorter pieces and the Christmas books. In addition there are many original drawings by the author of "Vanity Fair."

The fire which burned a part of Major Lambert's library consumed some of the Thackerayana, but while the portrait by Eyre Crow was destroyed, and one or two other relics, the manuscripts and the first editions were saved.

As a lecturer Major Lambert won a reputation that brought engagements from many cities and made his name familiar in many States. His favorite themes related to the Civil War and the meaning of the great struggle. It was in these lecture tours that he found much that afterwards reached his collection of Lincolniana. Everywhere he met men who had been associated with the war President, and it was the stories related of the great Commoner by those who knew him best that not only stimulated the desire to collect material, but to write what is considered Major Lambert's best literary work, "The Faith of Lincoln."

From Major Lambert was gathered very much of the material that entered into the Lincoln literature of the period. Historians and others from a great distance came to see the collection and delve into the facts that were there contained.

Major Lambert, while he spent much time among his rare manuscripts of the Emancipator and the great English author, was far from being a literary recluse. He was fond of the society of men and was a familiar figure in the Union League, of which he was a member, and in financial circles. He was a director of the Philadelphia Trust, Safe Deposit and Insurance Company; a director of the Girard Company and vice-president

and manager of the Savings Trust Society of Germantown.

In 1892 he was appointed a member of the Board of Public Charities and rendered efficient service, not only as an official, but because of his interest in the people to whom the board ministered.

His association with the Union League dates back many years. He was a director from 1901 to 1904 and also held the position of secretary. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Pennsylvania Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

He was genial in manner, courteous at all times in his treatment of those with whom he came in contact, and won many friends by his manner and because of the great fund of information he possessed.

Very much interest attaches to the probable disposition of the great collection in the Lambert library. It is not known, however, whether these will be devised to relatives or to some public institution.



## MAJOR WILLIAM H. LAMBERT

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS, JUNE 2, 1912

Major William H. Lambert, soldier, philanthropist, lawyer, business man and collector, whose death was announced yesterday, rounded and filled a wide scope of citizenship. He was trained as a lawyer and at the opening of the Civil War possessed the relations in life which most would have felt entitled to him to begin with a commission. Instead he preferred to enlist as a private and rose step by step, often by promotion on the field, to the rank of major, and on the close of the war he was in a staff position, which gave him wide administrative experience. He returned to find it was late to begin the practice of law and he entered the field of life insurance when it was still new, its traditions to be created, its methods to be developed and its work to be saved from the mere soliciting of risks to a comprehensive plan for bringing before the insurable of a community the benefits of insurance. For nearly forty years he was active in this work, built up without ostentation and without clamor. The business of his agency steadily grew under his hands until he left it, on retiring, one of the largest in the country.

During this wide work he found time to be active first in private and later in public philanthropy, improving materially each institution in whose management he shared. He early turned to the work of a collector and devoted himself to two great subjects, the life of Abraham Lincoln and the work of Thackeray. Patiently, through years without heedless expenditure, with tact and with early prescient knowledge of what in time would become valuable, he collected an array of objects, pictures, mementoes and works relating to both of these men, such as was equaled by only two or three private collectors, and before part of his Lincoln

material was destroyed by fire, excelled by no public collection in the world.

These broad, vigorous, intellectual and beneficial activities made Major Lambert in his closing years a man serene, trusted, valued, loved and in all the relations of life disappointing none and constantly surpassing the expectation of those who sought him.



## A LINCOLN AND THACKERAY COLLECTOR

FROM THE BOOK-LOVER'S QUARTERLY, DECEMBER, 1912

The death last summer of Major W. H. Lambert of Philadelphia removes from the elect list of book collectors a charming personality and a discriminating and intelligent collector. Major Lambert was on the staff of General John W. Geary, and fought through the Civil War. His vocation was manager of the Philadelphia agency of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company, but his avocation was collecting books, autograph letters and manuscripts by and relating to Abraham Lincoln and William Makepeace Thackeray.

Major Lambert began to collect material relating to Abraham Lincoln immediately after the Civil War, and it is generally conceded, by all who really know, that his Lincoln collection was the greatest in this country.

Besides autograph letters and manuscripts he owned all the lives of Lincoln, all the funeral sermons printed and accessible, many personal relics, such as Lincoln's writing desk used in his law office in Springfield, all the known engravings and photographs, and many other items.

Of Thackeray it is well within the bounds of accuracy to state that Major Lambert's was the finest collection extant, even including that of Lady Richmond Ritchie, Thackeray's daughter.

It is sometimes the part of wisdom to be a prophet rather than a follower, and Major Lambert had the far-seeing wisdom to begin his Thackeray collection when quite a young man. Although at no time a rich man, he once told the editor that he had bought steadily for thirty-five years, and finally got to where he felt that the prices were so high that even he could not acquire everything he wanted.



Of first editions he had a complete set; in original drawings, books from Thackeray's library, letters, manuscripts, etc., the collection was very rich.

Apropos of the above paragraph it will be remembered that Augustine Daly owned the original letters written by Thackeray to Mrs. Brookfield, which were begun and published in the initial number of *Scribner's Magazine*. At the Daly sale in 1900, these fetched the handsome sum of \$16,200, and are safely placed in the library of Mr. J. P. Morgan.

This Brookfield correspondence was edited by James Russell Lowell while Minister to the Court of St. James. Some of the letters were of so intimate and private a character that Mr. Lowell did not think it advisable to publish them.

The rejected letters were in the Thackeray collection of Major Lambert, and he used to point with satisfaction and pride to the fact that while Mr. Morgan owned the letters the public had read, he possessed the letters the public had never seen.



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES

## HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Circular No. 14*  
*Series of 1912. Whole No. 750.*

Philadelphia, October 21, 1912.

### WILLIAM HARRISON LAMBERT

Private Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, August 22, 1862; discharged for promotion November 24, 1862.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-seventh New Jersey Infantry November 27, 1862; honorably mustered out July 2, 1863.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant Thirty-third New Jersey Infantry, July 25, 1863; Captain, January 16, 1864; honorably mustered out July 17, 1865.

Brevetted Major U. S. Volunteers, March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious conduct during the war."

Awarded the "Medal of Honor," under resolution of Congress, "for having offered his services to the Government after expiration of his term."

Elected January 14, 1880. Class 1. Insignia 1985.

Junior Vice-Commander of the Commandery, May 4, 1887-1888.

Commander, May 3, 1911-1912.

Representative from the Commandery to the fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth Quadrennial Congress of the Order.

Born May 9, 1842, at Reading, Pa.

Died June 1, 1912, at Philadelphia, Pa.

The life of our late Companion and Commander, William H. Lambert, may well be remembered with affectionate pride, not only by his family, but by that large circle whose privilege it was to share his friendship, and to have the knowledge of his faithful and conscientious discharge of duty in the many positions which he filled during his honorable and active career. Born in 1842, he was a little over twenty years old when,

at his country's call, he forsook the study of law, and on August 22, 1862, enlisted as a private in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry (Anderson Cavalry), serving in Maryland and Virginia during Lee's invasion and participating in the battle of Antietam. Accompanying his command to Louisville, Kentucky, he was in the West until November 24, 1862, when he was discharged to accept a commission, November 27, 1862, as First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-seventh New Jersey Infantry, a nine months' regiment which was attached to the Ninth Corps of the Army of the Potomac and was present at the battle of Fredericksburg, December, 1862. In the spring of 1863, his regiment was sent to Kentucky and served with credit in that State until its muster out in July, 1863.

On July 25, 1863, he was appointed First Lieutenant and Adjutant Thirty-third New Jersey Infantry, which he assisted in recruiting, and which having been assigned to the Eleventh Corps of the Army of the Potomac, formed a part of the force which, under Major-General Hooker, opened the "Cracker Blockade," and gave such timely help to the army of Major-General Rosecrans, then besieged at Chattanooga. Companion Lambert took part in the series of battles around Chattanooga, when General Bragg was so badly defeated, and also in the march to the relief of General Burnside, fiercely assailed at Knoxville by a large force under the command of General Longstreet.

On January 16, 1864, he was made Captain Company A of his regiment, and in May, 1864, was appointed Aid-de-Camp on the staff of General Geary, commanding Second Division (the White Star Division) of the Twentieth Corps (of the Army of the Cumberland), formed by the consolidation of the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He was subsequently made Acting Assistant Inspector General on the same staff, and served with signal gallantry and efficiency during the Atlanta Campaign and in Sher-

man's march to the sea. He was one of that veteran army which passed before the President in the Grand Review at Washington which marked the close of the War of the Rebellion.

On the disbandment of Sherman's Army, he was assigned to duty on the staff of General Wilcox, commanding the District of Washington. On March 13, 1865, he was brevetted Major "for gallant and meritorious conduct during the War," and in July, 1865, was with his regiment mustered out. Having tendered his services to the Government in defence of Pennsylvania, after the expiration of one of his terms of duty, he was awarded a medal of honor under the resolution of Congress.

Although born in Reading, his parents removed to Philadelphia when he was quite young, and he was educated in its public schools and graduated from the Central High School in 1859. In March, 1866, he became connected with the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and a partner in its management in 1872. His active business life for nearly forty years was closely identified with that corporation, he having resigned as its Pennsylvania manager in 1904. Its marvellous growth during that period is the best tribute to the ability with which it was conducted, it having become one of the three largest and strongest life insurance companies in the United States. But in addition to the heavy responsibilities which this connection devolved upon him, he was honored by appointments to positions of high trust in connection with the administration of the City's affairs. He was made a member of the Department of Charities and Correction, serving as its President from September 30, 1892, until April 3, 1899. In that same year he was appointed to the Board of City Trusts, which manages a property of enormous value, largely the result of bequests made by Stephen Girard, and occupied that position until his death. He was one of the Trustees of the Free Library of Phila-

delphia, and also Treasurer of the Mercantile Library. He was a member of Post 2 of the G. A. R., of the Union League, of the Art and Penn Clubs, and other civic organizations, and one of the Council of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

During his whole life he was a student of letters, and as a natural consequence of his military career, took special interest in the literature of the War. He thus amassed an unique and invaluable collection bearing upon the lives of Abraham Lincoln and General George H. Thomas. His Thackeray collection is equally famous, and it is a matter of profound regret that in a fire that took place a few years since, serious loss and damage occurred to both his Lincoln and Thackeray collections. Companion Lambert was a forceful and impressive speaker, and was continually called upon to deliver orations and addresses at important public functions. At the unveiling of monuments in our National Cemeteries, at the meetings of the Armies of the Potomac and Cumberland, at commemorations of the services of our great generals, Meade, Hancock and others, at the recurring anniversaries of the birth of our martyr President, Abraham Lincoln, at the meetings of the Loyal Legion, whenever it was felt that that which was to be said should be fitly said, Companion Lambert was of those chosen to pay honor to our illustrious dead.

He was a member of the Commandery since January 14, 1880, was elected its Junior Vice-Commander May 4, 1887, and had completed a year of service as its Commander in May last, only a few weeks before his death. He was also a Representative from the Commandery at the fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth Quadrennial Congress of the Order. It is unnecessary to say how devoted he was to its interests, and how helpful in the administration of its affairs. He was known to us all as a genial comrade, a faithful friend and a gallant soldier and gentleman.

## Lincoln Fellowship

Companion Lambert was married October 15, 1874, to Herminia Van Haagen, who, with a son and three daughters, survives him.

JNO. P. GREEN,  
Captain and Asst. Adjt. General U. S. V.

MOSES VEALE,  
Major 109th Penna. Infantry.

POWELL STACKHOUSE,  
Major 198th Penna. Infantry.

EDWIN A. LANDELL,  
Brevet Lieut.-Colonel U. S. V.

JOHN O. FOERING,  
Brevet Captain U. S. V.

*Committee.*

By command of  
Brig.-General SAMUEL W. FOUNTAIN, U. S. A.

JOHN P. NICHOLSON,  
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V.,  
Recorder.



## MAJOR LAMBERT'S BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SOCIETIES WITH WHICH MAJOR LAMBERT WAS  
CONNECTED

First President of the Lincoln Fellowship, New York, 1907-1912.

Member of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts.

Member of the United States Military Service Institution.

Member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post 2, Department of Pennsylvania.

Member of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

Member of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland.

Member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania.

Vice-President of the Board of City Trusts, Philadelphia.

Director of the Philadelphia Trust, Safe Deposit and Insurance Company.

Director of the Girard Water Company.

Vice-President of the Savings Fund Society of Germantown and its vicinity.

Trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of the Second Presbyterian Church, Germantown.

Member of the Council of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Trustee of the Soldiers and Sailors Burial Lot in Philadelphia.

Treasurer of the Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia.

Director of the Western National Bank, Philadelphia.

Member of the Titmarsh Club of London, England\* (the other American members being Mr. Frederick S. Dickson, Sir Gilbert Parker, Hon. Whitelaw Reid and Gen. Jas. Grant Wilson).



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\*Writing to General Wilson under date of November 10, 1912, from England, Mr. Walter Jerrold says, "I had not heard of the death of Major Lambert—a serious loss to the band of Titmarshians—but have since learned that his executors had communicated with our Honorary Secretary. I shall be greatly interested in learning the fate of Major Lambert's Thackeray collection, the value and importance of which is I think fully recognized over here. For my own part—I sincerely hope that it will be found possible to keep the collection intact." All lovers of Thackeray must share in this wish.

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Major William H. Lambert\*

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